

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Lancaster.

Also, the claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

At the same time the other claims are not rejected over the art.

In connection with the Examiner's formal rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, this claim has been amended as suggested. It is believed therefore claim 1 eliminates the grounds of the formal rejections.

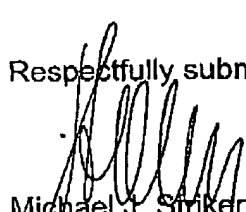
After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the claims over the art, applicants have canceled allowable claim 5 and introduced its features into claim 1. It is believed that this claim now should be in allowable condition since it contains the allowable subject matter of claim 5.

Claim 6 has been amended to depend on claim 1, thus making it allowable as well. The other claims depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, they share its allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 14 2003

OFFICIAL

by I. Wolowley
DN 28583